

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

FM Enterprises

Northwest Wisconsin Manufacturing Outreach Center

F-M Enterprise, Inc. Lowers Costs with Lean

Client Profile:

F-M Enterprises, Inc., located in Merrill, Wisconsin manufactures exterior window walls, sun shades, fixed windows and store fronts. F-M designed and fabricated the New York Mets Citi-Field Stadium glass walls and the front of the new Discovery World in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Founded in 1997, the company employs 28 people.

Situation:

F-M Enterprises knew they needed to change their manufacturing process to meet their increased volume requirements and to become even more responsive to their customers. The company contacted the Northwest Wisconsin Manufacturing Outreach Center (NWMOC), a NIST MEP network affiliate, for help.

Solution:

NWMOC met with F-M Enterprises, evaluated their operations, and made recommendations on how the company could move ahead on their continuous improvement journey. An initial Value Stream Map (VSM) process was completed, resulting in significant changes to their production layout and workflow. Another VSM was completed, and a significant effort was initiated for workplace organization and workflow improvements. Dramatic changes occurred in production, so NWMOC project managers then spent time with the engineering and production-scheduling processes. As a capstone to these efforts, a final VSM was developed that linked the customer directly through engineering, scheduling, production, and shipping. These changes resulted in reduced cost, less stress, reduced lead time for the customers, and a significantly enhanced ability to respond to last-minute changes from the customers. The employees at F-M continue to use these concepts to design efficient, rapid-response manufacturing processes for new product lines. NWMOC project managers continue to work with F-M to provide expertise for their needs and to demonstrate NWMOC's commitment to 'sticking with you' for the long haul.

Results:

- * Reduced costs by 50 percent.
- * Reduced lead time by 40 percent.
- * Improved workflow.

Testimonial:

"The programs that NWMOC has in their tool box have lowered FM's cost by 50 percent in just the first few months of implementation. I would recommend NWMOC to everyone and anyone who wants to grow their business and their bottom line."

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Renea Frederick, President